

2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed and properly insulated to reduce the need for excessive heating.

Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows.

Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is needed.

Source: energystar.gov

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Kally, a Rockbridge County sophomore, climbs a utility pole at the Girl Power Camp.

A New Appreciation

Young women challenge themselves while learning about careers in the energy industry

“My favorite part, even though I was scared, was climbing the pole and flying the drone,” says Kally, a high school sophomore from Rockbridge County High School who attended the 2023 Girl Power Camp. “Learning about what lineworkers must do on a daily basis made me appreciate, more than I originally did, what they do for their job and keeping our lights on.”

On Nov. 3, nearly 80 determined young women from across the commonwealth, including Rockbridge County, attended the third annual Girl Power Camp hosted by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.



BARC Electric Cooperative was one of several cooperatives helping to make this powerful career experience available to young ladies.

BARC has supported the event since its inception in 2021, when just a dozen students participated, including twin sisters from Rockbridge County.

Kally encourages other young women to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about possible career paths within the energy industry, particularly with electric cooperatives.

If you know a high school student or young woman interested in attending the 2024 camp, please contact Amanda at acunningham@barcelectric.com.



Will Reid, left, and Cody Minter during team competition.

PHOTOS BY JIM ROBERTSON

Team BARC Competes Internationally

by Tanner Buchanan

In mid-October, Cody Minter, Skyler Merchant and Will Reid traveled halfway across the country to test their skills against more than 1,300 lineworkers from all over the world at the 2023 International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Team BARC competed in four events, including a crossarm change, jumper change, pole climbing and pole-top rescue.

BARC was also recognized in other areas of the event. Jess Pritt represented the cooperative as a judge for the apprentice hurt-man rescue, ensuring safety of the largest apprentice competition pool in the organization’s 39-year history. Will Reid also had the honor of performing the national anthem for the record-breaking 5,328 registrants from nine different countries.

Teams received scores based primarily on the ability to safely and efficiently complete tasks required at the event, with time-to-perform being the tie breaker. Failure to perform work safely and/or in accordance with the rules of the competition resulted in point deductions with the severity of the violation

considered. Team BARC placed well, scoring 12th in the pole climb and 39th in the hurt-man rescue — with no deductions — out of 292 teams.

Lineman Skyler Merchant noted his appreciation for both the opportunities provided by the International Lineman’s Rodeo as well as the level of trust his teammates share, stating, “[I am] truly grateful to experience the international rodeo with a great team.” BARC is proud of, not only the way their linemen represented the cooperative’s commitment to safety and quality, but also their ability to perform with the commitment to safety and quality day in and day out.

“I truly believe that we are fortunate to have the team of linemen that we do,” says CEO Bill Buchanan, “to battle the terrain and inclement weather that our area presents while performing their duties to the highest level with an unmatched commitment to safety is not an easy job, and they do it daily. Their ability to perform this work as safely and efficiently as they do



Skyler Merchant assists his team from the ground.

ensure that the members of BARC receive the highest level of service possible.”

The rodeo began in 1984 with just 12 teams from Kansas and Missouri competing and has since grown to nearly 300 teams from nine different countries. Participants have the opportunity to connect with and compete against other professionals in their field, network with vendors that provide them with the gear and equipment they use daily, and learn about new products being introduced to the industry.



Scholarship Application Opens Feb. 1

BARC Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that the 2023-24 VMDAEC Scholarship Foundation application window will open from Feb. 1 until April 1.

Each year, the Education Scholarship Foundation awards \$1,000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors pursuing postsecondary education. These scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship Foundation and can be applied toward the applicant's tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The primary residence of the applicant's parent or legal guardian must receive its power from one of the 16 electric cooperatives served by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.
- Applicants applying for a scholarship must be a senior graduating from either high school or home school in 2024.
- Applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a postsecondary school in the fall of 2024.

The Foundation's board of directors will select recipients based on a combination of weighted criteria that includes: 40% financial need; 40% academic achievement; and 20% personal statement.

Questions about the application process can be answered at vmdaec.com/scholarship.



Students enjoy the ice cream social at the 2023 VICE Conference.

BARC to Sponsor Student at 2024 VICE Conference

The Virginia Institute on Cooperative Education, better known as VICE, is sponsored annually by the Virginia Cooperative Council. The leadership conference, held each spring at Graves' Mountain Lodge, aims to educate high school juniors and seniors about cooperatives and the cooperative business model.



The conference features two days of learning, fun activities and great food. Students enhance teamwork, leadership and communication skills, with top performers having the opportunity to receive up to \$2,000 in education scholarships.

VICE 2024 is scheduled for March 22-24. BARC is excited to sponsor a student to attend this fun and educational conference. Dustin Francis, Virginia Cooperative Council board member, says, "VICE is an amazing opportunity for students to expand their leadership capabilities and build financial and teamwork skills."

BARC is committed to investing in the youth across its service territory and is proud to provide this opportunity.

Upcoming juniors and seniors interested in attending VICE and whose parents or grandparents are BARC members should contact Amanda Cunningham at acunningham@barcelectric.com for more information.

Visit virginia.coop/youth-activities to learn more.

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